PRIZE FOR AQUACULTURE NUTRITION RESEARCH STUDENTS – 2022

SPAROS is launching a prize for students that are conducting their research on aquaculture nutrition to foster the use of nutritional-based mathematical simulation in their work. We believe these will be part of the toolset of aquaculture nutrition experts to support the development of new aquafeed formulations, and the long-term effects of novel ingredients on fish performance and environment, like it already happens in the land-based agro-industry. For this purpose, the FEEDNETICS™ software, which is a user-friendly decision-support tool based on mathematical models that can be used to evaluate the effects of different nutritional and environmental conditions on fish farm production, provides an important contribution to improve aquaculture efficiency.

Prize

In this 2022 edition, **SPAROS will award 2 grants** to the applicants with the highest score, one for participation in the ***XX International Symposium on Fish Nutrition and Feeding*** (June 5-9, 2022, Sorrento, Italy), and a second to attend ***Aquaculture Europe 2022*** (September 27-30, 2022, Rimini, Italy). The SPAROS grant includes a flight ticket (up to 800 Euros), hotel stay at the conference location (5 nights) and conference registration fee. In case of the presential event is cancelled due to covid related restrictions the award will be applicable to the next year presential event. Furthermore, the **top 3 applicants for each grant trackline will earn free access to the FEEDNETICS™ web app**, individual academic license, for a period of 6 months.

Application

To apply to this contest, we invite you to learn more about the use of SPAROS nutritional-based model FEEDNETICS™ to complement research work, by reading the technical papers with some applications (https://www.sparos.pt/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/TechnicalArticlesFDN.pdf) and by watching the academic webinar available on our Youtube channel (https://youtu.be/lofoxln3hBM). When planning your application, please bear in mind that FEEDNETICS™ is **currently available for the gilthead bream, the European bass, the rainbow trout and the Nile tilapia**.

The application includes a 1st stage where you should explain how you would apply FEEDNETICS™, and a 2nd stage to implement your proposal in our web app. The 2-stage application key dates for each grant trackline are detailed in the table. **Participants can apply to both tracklines**, so we eagerly suggest that you apply sooner (to the ISFNF trackline) which will allow you to re-submit an improved proposal to the later application (AE 2022 trackline).

Grant trackline	XX ISFNF	AE 2022
Prize 2022 application key dates		
Deadline for 1st stage submission	9th Nov 2021	18th Jan 2022
(Results announcement by SPAROS)	17th Nov 2021	26th Jan 2022
Deadline for 2nd stage submission	10th Jan 2022	29th Mar 2022
(Results announcement by SPAROS)	14th Jan 2022	6th Apr 2022
Conference key dates		
Abstract submission	20th Jan 2022	to be decided
Notification of acceptance	8th Mar 2022	to be decided

Notes: Check the conference websites for deadline updates. Application key dates are subject to change to adjust to the conference abstract submission dates.

1st stage

Submit a proposal about how you would like to apply FEEDNETICS™ in your research work, including:

- The objective. Consider the following examples as guidance (these do not represent an exhaustive list, other ideas are most welcome): support interpretation of research trial testing novel feeds, long-term evaluation

of feed additives or ingredients. Your application should include the comparison of FEEDNETICS™ results with data (your own research trial or published data), and should not be a "simulation only" application.
- A brief description of the dataset and/or protocol that you want to simulate.
- The industry/scientific relevance of your proposal, and if relevant, a brief description about the applicant's research work.

Your application must include the applicant's name, e-mail address, telephone, host institution and supervisor names, the grant trackline you are applying to and should have 3000 characters at maximum. Send it by e-mail to feednetics@sparos.pt, with the subject "Prize 2022 aquaculture nutrition students – Grant [identify ISFNF or AE]".

For each grant trackline, the 3 applications with the highest scores will be selected for applying to the 2nd stage, and the 3 applicants will earn free access to the FEEDNETICS™ web app, individual academic license, for a period of 6 months.

2nd stage

For each grant trackline, in the 2nd stage, the 3 selected candidates are invited to implement their proposal using FEEDNETICS™ and submit an extended abstract in each conference format: http://www.isfnf2022.org/2022/loadpage/abstracts/abstracts; https://www.aquaeas.org/Abstract/Submit/AE2021.

The abstract should be sent by e-mail to feednetics@sparos.pt, with the subject "Prize 2022 aquaculture nutrition students – Grant [identify ISFNF or AE]". The applicants will be informed by e-mail about the application results within 1 week after the submission deadline and in time for them to submit the abstract to the conference programme. For the final decision about the prize results, successful abstract acceptance at the target conference will also be taken into account, and the grant winners will be announced on our news website.

Who can apply?

Postdocs, PhD and master students on aquaculture nutrition or related courses / programmes.

Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated by SPAROS using the following criteria:

- Scientific and Technical Quality - Originality of proposed research, awareness of current state of the arts and clarity of objectives. (40%)
- Feasibility - Appropriate theoretical and methodological framework, possibility to carry on research within given timeframe. (30%)
- Added-value - Scope for industry application. (30%)

The applications will be scored (1 to 5, highest score) for each criterion and will be ranked based on the final score (4 is the threshold for being considered for the award). Furthermore, the successful abstract acceptance at the target conference will also be considered for the final decision about the prize award, with preference given to oral presentations.

Evaluation committee: Ana Nobre, Filipe Soares, Tomé Silva, Luis Conceição.

For enquires about your application, please contact us: feednetics@sparos.pt.